

Message Text

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CARACAS FOR DEA

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SUBJ: SEMI-ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL REPORT,

PART I: JULY 1 - DEC. 30, 1975

REF: A. STATE 286666 AND B. 209355

1. FOLLOWING IS SECTION A (HIGHLIGHTS) OF THE SUBJECT REPORT AS
REQUESTED REFTEL B.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING
PERIOD:

A: THE MISSION AND THE GOC REACHED AGREEMENT ON US FUNDING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR TWO SEPARATE SPECIAL OPERATIONS AIMED AT
CONTROLLING ILLEGAL COCAINE PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA. THE FIRST
SUCH OPERATION--CODE-NAMED KITCHEN--GOT UNDERWAY IN MID-OCTOBER
AND IS NOW ON THE WAY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONSLUSION. THIS OPERATION
IS AIMED AT CLOSING DOWN CLANDESTINE COCTAINE PROCESSING LABORA-
TORIES AND BRINGING TO TRIAL THE MAJOR COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS WHO
RUN THESE LABORATORIES. OPERATION KITCHEN HAS ALREADY RESULTED
IN A RECORD 407-KILOGRAM COCAINE SEIZURE. THE SECOND OPERATION--
FUNNEL--INVOLVES COLOMBIAN, EQUADORIAN AND PERUVIAN ENFORCEMENT
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AGENCIES IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH DEA AIMED AT STOPPING CO-

CAINE PASTE--THE BASIC RAW MATERIAL FOR MAKING COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE--FROM CROSSING INTERNATIONAL FRONTIERS INTO COLOMBIA. THIS OPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO GET UNDERWAY IN MID-1976.

B. IN LINE WITH MISSION POLICY TO EXPAND COLOMBIAN AWARENESS OF HOW NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND GROWING DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE ADVERSELY AFFECT THIS COUNTRY, WE HAVE WIDENED OUR EFFORTS BEYOND THE ENFORCEMENT AREAS OF DRUG CONTROL. USIA HAS COMPLETED FILMING IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOC A 30 MINUTE COLOR DOCUMENTARY ON THE DRUG PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA. THE FILM WILL BE RELEASED HERE IN APRIL PRIOR TO WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION. USIS BOGOTA RECENTLY AIRED ON COLOMBIAN NATIONAL TV A 30 MINUTE FILM ON COCAINE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLOMBIAN EFFORTS AT DRUG ABUSE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, THE MISSION RECENTLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING THE GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS WITH THE TWO-YEAR CONTRACT SERVICES OF AN AMERICAN MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR. THIS ADVISOR WILL WORK WITH AN EXPANDED COUNCIL STAFF IN ARRANGING A NATIONAL MEDIA DRUG SEMINAR AND IN CREATING A NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE. A SECOND PROJECT AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED LATER THIS MONTH WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL DRUG PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. THE MISSION AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS WILL FINANCE THIS LATTER PROGRAM ON A 50-50 BASIS BEGINNING IN 1976.

C. IN AN EFFORT TO CURB JUDICIAL CORRUPTION AND SPEED THE JUDICIAL PROCESS, GOC HAS INCLUDED DRUG TRAFFICKING AMONG THOSE CRIMES SUBJECT TO THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. UNDER A JUNE 1974 STATE OF SIEGE DECREE, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS ARE NOW BEING HAILED BEFORE MILITARY JUDGES WITH THE RESULT THAT MANY--THOUGH BY NO MEANS ALL--AMERICAN AND COLOMBIAN OFFENDERS ARE GETTING FASTER TRIALS AND STIFFER PRISON SENTENCES. THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS SERVING TIME OR AWAITING TRIAL FOR DRUG OFFENSES IN COLOMBIAN JAILS REMAINS STEADY AT 85 TO 90.

D. COLOMBIAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE TROUBLED BY LACK OF STRONG CENTRAL COORDINATION AND OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS AMONG FOUR DIFFERENT POLICE AGENCIES. WITH OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS, HOWEVER, FOCUSING ON THIS PROBLEM. WE HOPE THAT THEIR RE-EXAMINATION OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. MEANWHILE, GOC POLICE FORCES CONTINUE TO EXPAND THEIR ANTI-DRUG OPERATIONS, AND ARE GAINING CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE, AS IS ILLUSTRATED.

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TRATED IN THIS REPORT.

E. INDIVIDUAL PROJECT AGREEMENTS--PROGRESS REPORT (BY AGENCY OR OPERATION).

1. OPERATION KITCHEN: SINCE MID-OCTOBER, DEA AND THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) HAVE COOPERATED IN A LARGE-SCALE OPERATION--THE FIRST OF ITS KIND HERE--AIMED AT CLOSING CLANDESTINE COCAINE LABORATORIES AND JAILING MAJOR COCAINE TRAFFICKERS. AT THE HALF-WAY POINT IN THIS OPERATION, F-2 HAS SEIZED ONE LABORATORY.

TORY, MORE THAN 430 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE AND ONE AIRCRAFT. NINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED ARE AWAITING TRIAL. WARRANTS FOR SIX OTHER MAJOR VIOLATORS ARE IN PROCESS. THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT HAS ASSIGNED 18 FULL-TIME INVESTIGATORS TO OPERATION KITCHEN, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE UNTIL JANUARY 30, 1976.

2. NATIONAL POLICE: THE NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) NARCOTICS UNIT --COMPRISED OF 130 SPECIALIST OFFICERS AND AGENTS--CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE. MAKING USE OF USG FUNDING, EQUIPMENT AND INTELLIGENCE, F-2 OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS ARRESTED 17 TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED 110 TONS OF MARIJUANA AND 21 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE. BY WAY OF COMPARISON, IN FY-75 F-2 IN COOPERATION WITH DEA ARRESTED 28 TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED NINE TONS OF MARIJUANA AND 7.3 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE. THEREFORE, IT APPEARS THAT FY-76 MAY BE THE BEST ENFORCEMENT YEAR SINCE THE F-2 NARCOTICS UNIT WAS FORMED IN 1973.

3. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS): IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1975, DAS ARRESTED 39 TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED NEARLY 30 TONS MARIJUANA, 49 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH, 18 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, AND TWO AIRCRAFT USED BY TRAFFICKERS. MOST OF THE ABOVEARRESTS AND SEIZURES CAME AS A DIRECT RESULT OF USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE 60-MAN DAS NARCOTICS UNIT. DAS ALSO CONTINUES TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN REPATRIATING US CITIZEN DRUG-TRAFFICKER FUGITIVES TO THE US FOR TRIAL. IT WILL BE THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLOMBIAN PORTION OF THE FORTHCOMING "OPERATION FUNNEL" EXERCISE.

4. COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS: GOC CUSTOMS FORMED A SMALL SPECIALIZED CENTRAL NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT IN JUNE 1974 AND LAID WELL-CONCEIVED PLANS TO CREATE SATELITE UNITS AT MAJOR PORTS OF ENTRY. USING EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY THE USG, CUSTOMS CONTINUED TO COOPERATE WITH MIXED (DAS-F-2-CUSTOMS) JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNITS STATIONED AT MAJOR COLOMBIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. EXPANSION OF CUSTOMS' DRUG INVESTIGATORY AND ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES, HOWEVER, VIRTUALLY STOPPED IN THE LAST HALF OF 1975 AS A RESULT OF INTER-SERVICE SQUABBLES AMONG CUSTOMS, DAS AND THE GOC AT-
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TORNEY GENERAL. THEREFORE, NO NEW NARCOTICS PROJECT AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED WITH GOC CUSTOMS.

5. NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS: IN DECEMBER 1975, THE MISSION SIGNED A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL PROVIDING TWO-YEAR'S SERVICES OF AN AMCIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ADVISOR FOR DRUG EDUCATION AND ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, AND \$20,000 IN PROGRAM COSTS TO BE MATCHED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL. THE MEDIA ADVISOR HAS ARRIVED IN-COUNTRY AND WILL BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY ON TWO MAJOR PROJECTS: A NATIONAL MEDIA SEMINAR ON DRUGS AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION CLEARING HOUSE. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS--WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, THE HEADS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, DAS, AND CUSTOMS, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS EXPANDING ITS STAFF TO SUPPORT THESE AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF HEALTH, PUBLIC INFORMATION, DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND REHABILITA-

TION.

6. FYI. DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT ARREST AND SEIZURE STATISTICS QUOTED ABOVE ARE PARTIAL AND PRELIMINARY. GOC AGENCIES NORMALLY TABULATE PRIOR YEAR STATISTICS IN LATE JANUARY OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. THESE UP-DATED STATISTICS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

7. REMAINDER THIS REPORT FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.

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